

Legislature...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: ...I guess the reason that I am talking about crimes of violence this morning is because I have got a violent bill here. I want to get rid of them little ole prairie dogs, and so maybe that is why I am all charged up. All this bill does is it takes the county high...overseer of highways out in the county from being responsible for getting rid of the prairie dogs. The state, according to the statutes, 2-1053 (sic) are already in charge of getting rid of the prairie dogs. The Fish and Game program of the feds are working with the state, and the state contracts with them. They set up a program. They are going out to the farmers and helping the farmers get rid of these pesky little prairie dogs. So all this does, it says that the county road supervisor, and this was put in the books way back when, many, many, many years ago, is not responsible anymore. It just lets the state be responsible where it should be and they are working with the feds and to work with the farmer and the landowner to get rid of the prairie dogs. That is the...there is no financial bill to it. It doesn't cost anymore. It won't cost any less and it is really kind of a meaningless bill, except it gets rid of the little buggers. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, then Senator Vickers, then Senator Higgins. Senator Beutler first.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, this bill is...a dog? There is some awful strong language in this bill, Mr. Speaker. I notice that it says that we are going to totally exterminate these little critters. And I also note that on state-owned land they have to be...State of Nebraska land, they have to be totally exterminated, and, Senator Haberman, I have a question for you, if I may. A couple of years ago Senator Wagner took us on a very nice tour of the lake up in his neighborhood. What is the name of that lake, Sherman Reservoir. And we had this nice little boat ride around the lake and everybody was saying, look at that little prairie dog town out there right on the little bank of the lake,